

Message Text

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63

ACTION SS-25

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R 021248Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7578

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

S E C R E T PARIS 35625

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS CG BE FR US

SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 289739; (B) BRUSSELS 11730

1. WE MADE POINTS IN REF A TO QUAI DIRECTOR (ASSISTANT SECRETARY) FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS GUY GEORGY ON NOVEMBER 1. AFTER COMMENTING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE WEST TO SUPPORT MOBUTU, HE SAID HE WOULD TOUCH BASE WITH OTHERS IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT (PRESUMABLY THE ELYSEE AND THE DEFENSE MINISTRY) AND GIVE US AN OFFICIAL ANSWER NEXT WEEK. HE AGREED THAT IN PRINCIPLE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO COORDINATE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THOUGHT THAT THE SUGGESTED EARLY DECEMBER TIME FRAME FOR DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, PROVIDED OTHER AREAS OF THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. WE ALSO INFORMED HIM OF THE INITIAL BELGIAN REACTION (REF B).

2. GEORGY NOTED THAT FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE IS NOT LARGE AND INTIMATED THAT DEMANDS FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES AND FRANCE'S OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE UNLIKELY. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, HE DEPLORED, ON THE ONE HAND, THE WASTE OF AFRICAN RESOURCES ON MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND EMPHASIZED,

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ON THE OTHER, THE NECESSITY FOR THE WEST, ESPECIALLY

EUROPE, TO PREVENT SOVIET PENETRATION OF KEY COUNTRIES
SUCH AS ZAIRE, NIGERIA AND ETHIOPIA BY REPLYING TO THEIR
PERCEIVED MILITARY CONCERNS.
RUSH

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